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## Virginia Aviation Summer Newsletter

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### **Drone Demonstration held at Williamsburg Airport on International Drone Day**

DOAV celebrated International Drone Day by attending Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport to participate in a drone demonstration on May 4th. PR team Kim Wells and Andrew Crider had a table top exhibit where they discussed drone safety as well as aviation careers with the crowd.

The ramp was full of static displays and during the day there were demos of drone flights that showed off the aircraft's racing skills and capabilities. This

event was presented by the Tidewater Virginia Drone Club and the Prop-Bustas MultiGP Racing Chapter by special arrangement with the Virginia Department of Aviation and the FAA.

It was a fun and educational way to learn about aviation and drones. The crowd was eager to learn and observe how drones can safely be flown. The drone racing also showed off the hobby side of flying drones while stressing the importance of safe flying.



## Kid's Day at the Flying Circus Aerodrome had a Positive Impact on Everyone who Attended

The Kid's Day event at the [Flying Circus Aerodrome](#) was held on Sunday, May 19th and DOAV had the trailer setup and staffed with Marty Martin and Kim Wells. The event was filled with things for the crowd to do while they learned about aviation such as hands-on exhibits, flights and numerous exhibitors and pilots to talk to.

The air show was amazing and the crowd had the privilege of watching the aviation legend and hall of fame member, Chuck Tippet demonstrate his fantastic wing walking skills in a Stearman that was piloted by Joe Bender. Scott Francis flew by to demonstrate his speed and aerobatic skills and the



crowd couldn't stop watching the sky in awe of his precision and expertise. Various parts of the air show were interactive and this helped keep the kids and all attendees even more involved in what was going on. After the show, the pilots gave autographs and spent some time talking to the crowd. It is always nice to see how involved these performers are in their community and the smile they left on each of the attendee's faces was truly remarkable to witness.

Air show season is in full swing at the Aerodrome and you can catch an amazing show there every Sunday from now until the end of October. Thanks to all the exhibitors, performers and volunteers for making this event so memorable!





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## 75th Anniversary of D-Day Celebrated at the National Memorial in Bedford

June 6, 2019 marked the 75th Anniversary of D-Day and PR Specialist Kim Wells was at the [National Memorial](#) in Bedford to cover the event. The sound of historic aircraft resonated above the audience as the variety of planes took turns flying over the memorial in a fantastic display that was narrated by the famous air show announcer, Rob Reider. Predominant military and government figures were present to speak to the audience, read journal entries from soldiers that never returned home as well as thank the veterans that were in attendance. It was very humbling to be in the presence of the greatest generation and to see the smiles of gratitude of the veteran's faces when people shook their hands and thanked them for their service and sacrifice.

Nineteen boys from Bedford, Virginia--population just 3,000 in 1944--died in the first bloody minutes of D-Day. They were part of Company A of the 116th Regiment of the 29th Division, and the first wave of American soldiers to hit the beaches in Normandy. Later in the campaign, three more boys from this small Virginia town died of gunshot wounds. Twenty-two sons of Bedford lost; it is a story one cannot easily forget and one that the families of Bedford will never forget.

While we can never thank them enough for the sacrifices that were made, we can still show our appreciation and this event truly captured the love we have for our veterans. Thank you to our Veterans, the town of Bedford and to everyone who came out to support this event!





## Attendance at the Women Can Fly Events Has Increased Every Year Since it Began

The Women Can Fly events began in 2013 when the Ninety-Nines and The Department of Aviation joined forces with the airports to help introduce more girls and youth to aviation. The event was held at three different airports the first year and each location averaged about 60 introductory flights. Now it has grown to being held at six airports across Virginia with an average of 150 introductory flights at each location. The increase comes from having more volunteers, more aircraft and more women pilots at the event.

Even on a rainy Saturday this event will draw a crowd of over 100 people as Hampton Roads proved again this year. Each location has static displays,

exhibitors, pre-flight briefing and a complimentary plane or helicopter ride. This year the events were held at Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport, Hampton Roads Executive, Shenandoah Valley, Shannon, Warrenton-Fauquier and the Military Aviation Museum. Five of these events took place in June and the last one for this year will take place at the Military Aviation Museum on September 21st.

If your airport is interested in hosting one of these events next year, contact Betty Wilson ([Betty.Wilson@doav.virginia.gov](mailto:Betty.Wilson@doav.virginia.gov)) for more information about how to get started.

Check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for more stories and pictures from each event (@VirginiaDOAV).







## Summer ACE Camp Held at DOAV

Virginia Department of Aviation hosted an Aviation Career Education (ACE) event in their hangar on June 25th for the [Nubian Village Academy for STEM](#) and the [National Society of Black Engineers](#) (NVA-NSBE). The purpose of the ACE Camp is to offer first level exposure to the aviation industry by providing aviation career exploration for middle and high school students. Participants learn about aviation history, theory of flight, and other aviation related subjects. Students will have the opportunity to go on field trips to aviation facilities, museums and participate in other hands on activities designed to give students a total aviation experience.

Our PR staff was assisted by some of the Flight Ops team to educate this group about careers in aviation. After a power point presentation, the students got to build paper airplanes and fly them in a mini competition. The students also had some hands-on time inside the agency's Cessna aircraft. The group was also able to get an outside tour of agency's King Air, the airport's fire truck and a helicopter. This event is part of the group's STEM program that gives the students a chance to get more aviation experience and education. At least three students in the group have their private pilot license and several others have had some flight training. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event as well as those who attended. We can't wait to see where the future takes this bright group!



## Upcoming Events:

July 22nd-27th: [EAA AirVenture](#)

September 21st: Women Can Fly at the [Military Aviation Museum](#)

September 21st-22nd: [NAS Oceana Air Show](#)

September 28th: Leesburg Air Show

September 28th: [Wings, Wheels and Keels at Hummel Field](#)

October 12th: [Culpeper Air Fest](#)

October 26th: [Roar and Soar at New Kent](#)

For the full list of our upcoming events, visit our website at [www.doav.virginia.gov](http://www.doav.virginia.gov) or click the DOAV logo.





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